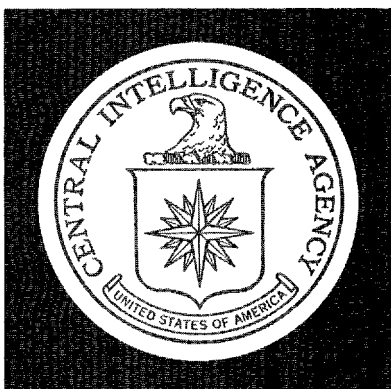


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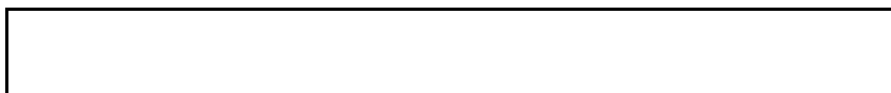
CONTENTS

Czechoslovakia-USSR: Situation gradually returning to normal. (Page 1)

South Vietnam: Situation report. (Page 5)

Okinawa: Conservative party wins a key mayoral election. (Page 6)

Dominican Republic: Foreign Communists are supporting the Dominican Popular Movement despite its impotence. (Page 7)



Congo (Brazzaville): Political crisis (Page 9)

Lesotho: Refugees ordered out (Page 9)

Surinam: Leftist labor gain (Page 10)

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[Czechoslovakia-USSR: The situation in Czechoslovakia continues gradually to return to normal.

Western press services and some Czechoslovak radio stations reported yesterday that Soviet troops left the presidential residence, the headquarters of the Czechoslovak news agency, and several ministries. Troops remain in or near, however, the defense and interior ministries, most newspapers, and some radio and TV stations.

They also continue to occupy ten of the 14 civil airfields throughout the country. Rude Pravo reportedly claimed yesterday that train service had been restored to all countries save Hungary, and some Czechoslovaks believe air service will resume by mid-month.

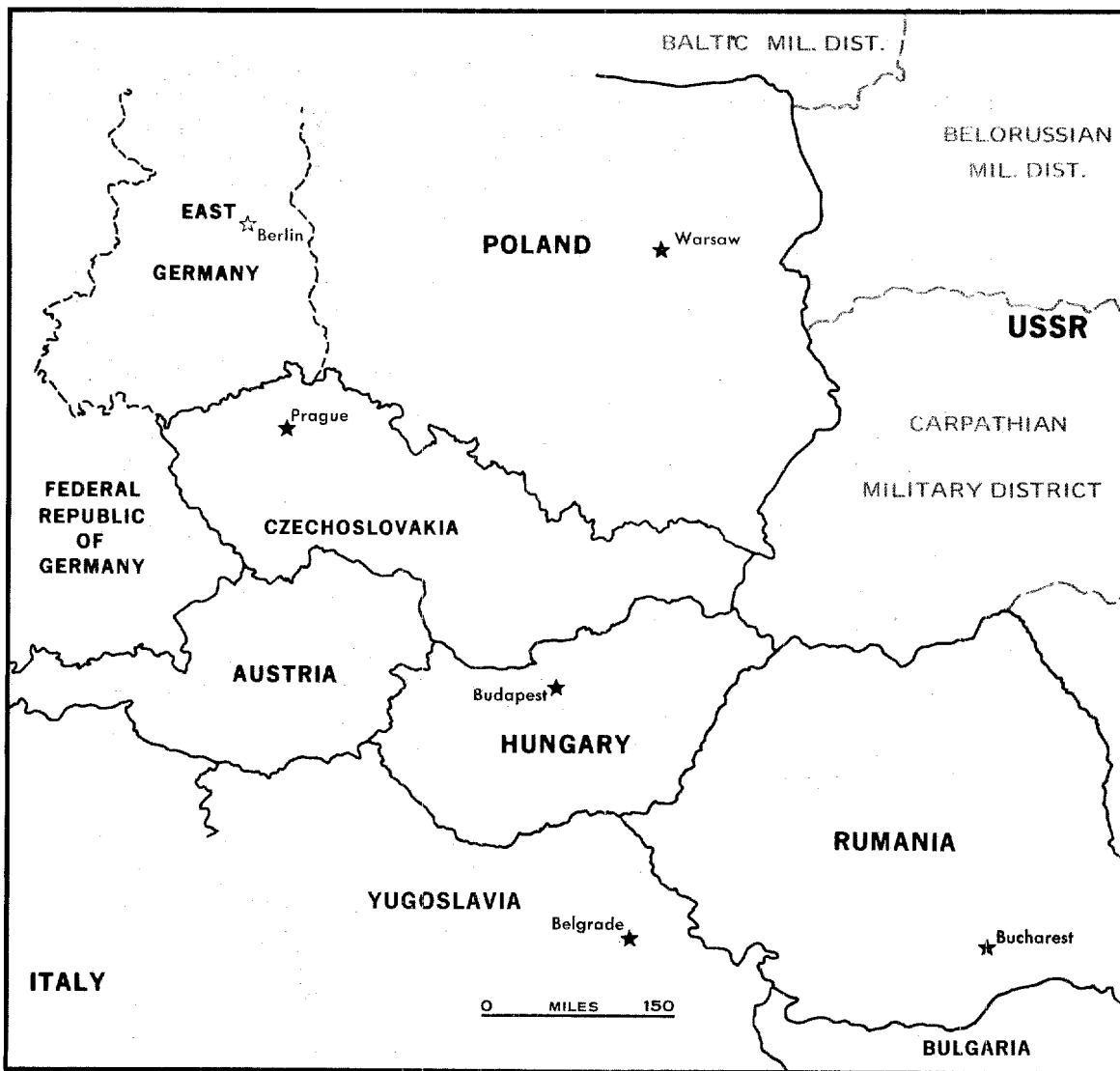
There is still no confirmation that a meeting of the Soviet party central committee took place on 2 September, but the US Embassy reported that Communist newsmen claim that central committee members from the provinces were in Moscow on that day. Yesterday party leader Brezhnev met with his counterpart from the Mongolian party, his first publicly announced activity since the end of the Soviet-Czechoslovak talks.

The Czechoslovak cabinet reportedly met yesterday to discuss possible Soviet economic aid. This meeting may have been in preparation for another summit meeting of Soviet and Czechoslovak leaders, which a West German news service reported last night will occur later this week. When the Czechoslovak leaders returned from the Moscow talks, there were reports that a summit on political matters would be held in Dresden, East Germany, between the Czechoslovak leaders and those of the USSR and its allies, and that economic negotiations would be held in Moscow around the second week in September. **]**

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[The Czechoslovak Government yesterday accepted Deputy Premier Ota Sik's request to be relieved of his position, on the same day that the Soviet Government daily paper Izvestia violently criticized him and Foreign Minister Hajek. The Soviet paper referred to Hajek as the man "who held" the post of foreign minister, suggesting that his dismissal is also just a matter of time.

A Reuters report yesterday from Bonn said that Polish, Hungarian, and Bulgarian troops were being withdrawn from Czechoslovakia. In addition, AP reported that Radio Bratislava announced that these troops were beginning to leave. As yet, however, there is no firm evidence to confirm the withdrawal of any occupying ground forces. [REDACTED]

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South Vietnam: A mortar and ground assault on a district town 18 miles east of Saigon and a light rocket attack on Da Nang were the only significant Communist military actions during the last 24 hours.

In several other areas of the country, however, there were sharp small-unit engagements. Moreover, South Vietnamese forces reported heavy fighting in two operations in the Mekong Delta and near the Special Forces camp at Duc Lap, resulting in at least 180 Communists killed.

Present Communist tactics apparently call for maintaining strong pressure for a prolonged period. Several recently captured Communist directives emphasize the need for careful selection of major targets, with attacks accompanied by strong diversionary moves. The Communists apparently hope that by drawing allied forces into unfavorable terrain, they can stretch out the fighting and hold down their own loss rate.

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Okinawa: The Okinawan Liberal Democratic Party (OLDP), which faces a stiff test from a leftist coalition in elections for chief executive and the legislature in November, won a key mayoral election last week.

The OLDP's margin of victory in the mayoral race in Kadena-son, the site of a large US Air Force base, exceeded the party's most optimistic estimates. The conservatives' good showing apparently resulted from their deft handling of the base issue, a dominant political consideration.

The OLDP candidate blunted opposition attacks on the base issue by attacking the presence of B-52s and nuclear weapons in Okinawa. At the same time, however, he stressed the vital role of the bases in the island's economy, an emphasis which was particularly effective in attracting the dominant "fish and rice" vote. In contrast, the leftist candidate, while calling for a blanket removal of US forces, offered no clear substitute for the local income generated by the bases.

The OLDP's determined campaigning was probably stimulated by a surprise defeat suffered in a mayoral race on the northern part of the island in mid-August. Conservative overconfidence is believed to have been a decisive factor.

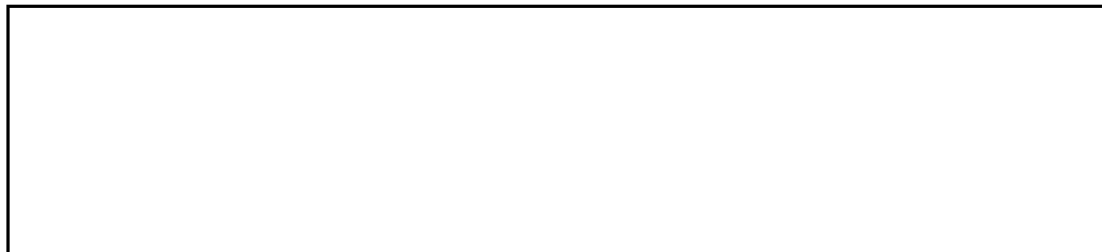
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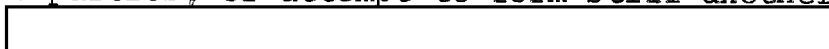
Dominican Republic: Foreign Communists continue to support the Dominican Popular Movement (MPD) despite its relative impotence.

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Despite this and other foreign support, the movement is virtually paralyzed by factionalism. One of the dissidents claims that the current leadership has "misappropriated" \$82,000 provided by foreign sources during the last four years. Although earlier this summer the party was reportedly planning to renew rural insurgency, this effort has been disrupted by the security forces.

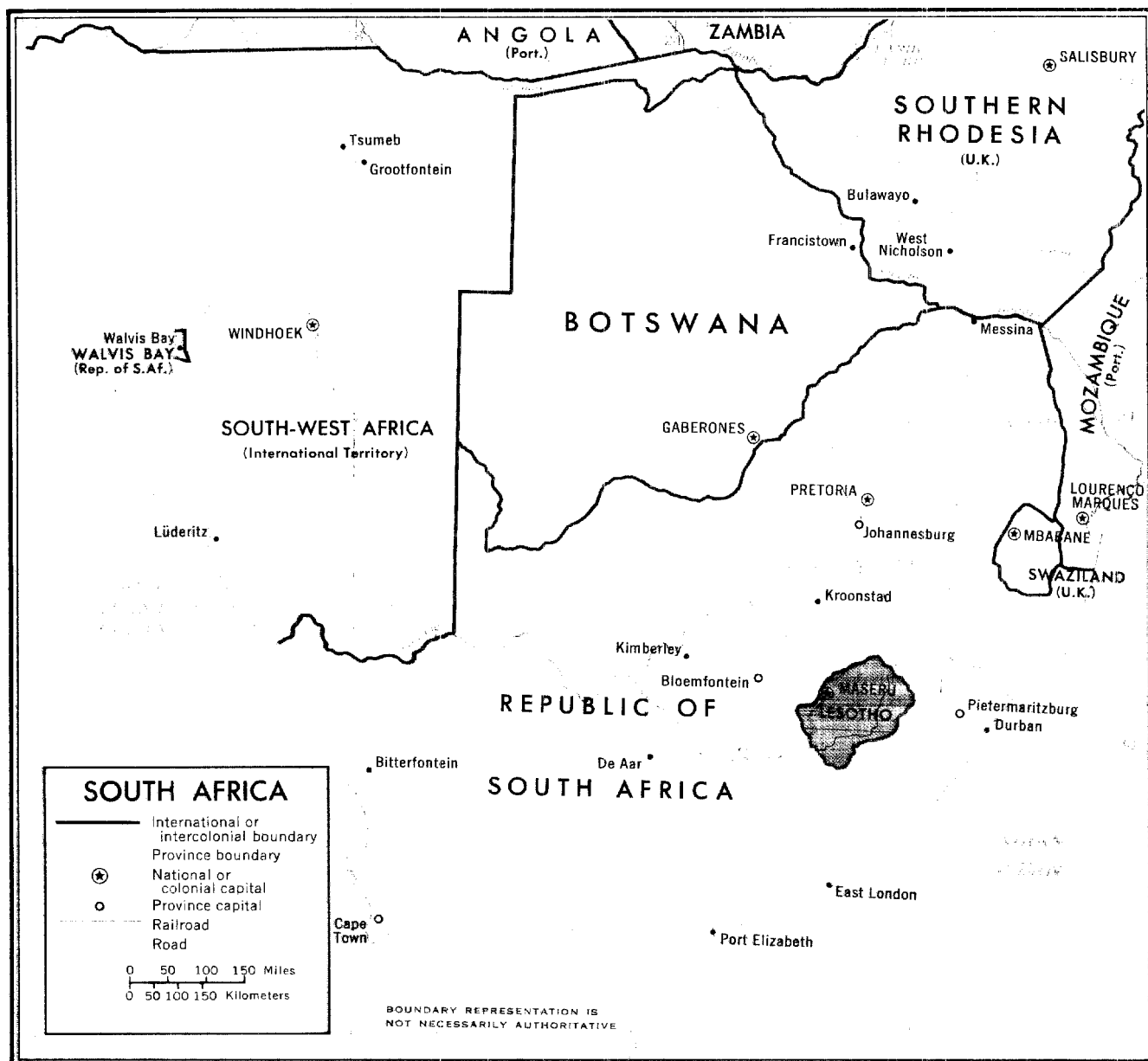
The dissidents may join forces with one or another faction of the Cuban-oriented 14th of June Revolutionary Movement, one of the country's six Communist parties, or attempt to form still another party.



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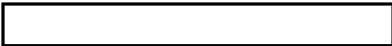
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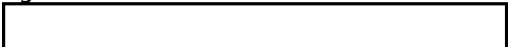
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Congo (Brazzaville): The six-week-old political crisis continues, although an uneasy calm has prevailed since the army forcibly suppressed dissident youth militia elements last weekend. Heavily armed paratroopers reportedly have surrounded the presidential palace while the dominant army leaders decide what to do with President Massamba-Debat. According to some reports, Massamba has already resigned in favor of the army, which is itself threatened by the personal and tribal divisions that underlie the extended power struggle. 

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Lesotho: Prime Minister Jonathan, in a sharply worded speech on 31 August, brought his government even closer to de facto subservience to South Africa. In the speech Jonathan ordered all political refugees in Lesotho to leave by 30 September--a move directed against South African exiles. He also threatened to ban the opposition press and possibly the opposition parties. The latter have ties with the refugees and are vehemently anti - South Africa. This warning could presage the establishment of one-party rule in Lesotho. 

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Surinam: Leftist influence in the labor movement is growing. Edward Bruma, the leader of a small revolutionary party, has gained control over several important unions in the past six months. Unless the government or the traditional union leadership takes steps soon to counter Bruma's drive, he is likely eventually to gain a large measure of control over the entire labor movement.

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